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Smith

SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch

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No. 1586

R & A No. 1586

**SPIES, AGENTS PROVOCATEURS,
OR QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS
CONNECTED WITH ITALY**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REFERENCE DIVISION
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30 November 1943

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This report is an appendix to (1) R & A No. 1318 entitled "Spies, Agents Provocateurs, or Questionable Characters Connected with Italy", dated October 22, 1943, and to (2) R & A No. 1414 entitled "Names and Photographs of Eight Italian Spies or Agents", dated November 1, 1943.

In reading the present report, the prefatory note on page 1 of R & A No. 1318 should be kept in mind.

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Borromeo, Gino

This individual appears to have been a Fascist agent provocateur who took a special interest in workers' circles. He was considered responsible for the arrest of the worker Mario Villa of the Milan district, whose confidence he had managed to obtain and through whom he was able to insinuate himself among anti-Fascist workers. Villa committed suicide or was assassinated in the Milan prison of San Vittore in 1934. It is said that he resisted harsh third-degree methods and refused to reveal anything about his anti-Fascist associates or friends.

Canovi, Newton

It appears that this individual, an editor ("redattore") or member of the editorial staff of Mussolini's newspaper Il Popolo d' Italia of Milan, operated as a Fascist agent provocateur in France in and about January 1927 and was expelled from France after he had tried to interest or involve Italian anti-Fascists in France in a plot against Mussolini's life. Among the anti-Fascists whom Canovi saw was Nino Sacchi, an editor of an anti-Fascist paper published in France.

The appended photostat contains photographs of Canovi and Sacchi and the "testament" of Canovi.

Nino Sacchi is described as the denouncer of Canovi and as a so-called or self-styled anti-Fascist because the character of his activity, particularly after the Canovi affair, is not clear. About 1929, he went to Argentina, apparently ^a on regular Italian passport. Those who are interested in the subject of the present report might do well to make inquiries about Sacchi in Argentina or South America.

Canovi's autograph testament, apparently a ruse to show his sincerity, reads as follows:

Mio testamento

"L' attentato [i.e. projected attempt on Mussolini's life] fu voluto e preparato da me. Già da oltre un anno io lavoro per l' attuazione di questo piano che deve, o ~~dovrà~~[✓] servire a liberare il

mondo /7 this word which we have underlined is not clear/ e l'
Italia dal giogo di uno scaltro e vile cialtrone.

"Tutta la responsabilita dell' impresa cade su di me: e di
questo mi sento infinitamente orgoglioso.

"Quello o quelli che mi accompagnerano non sono che degli
istrumenti degnissimi, e vero, ma ben lungi dall' aver ordita la
trama. In fede. "20/1/27"

"Newton Canovi"

Cariello, ^oEduardo

This individual, said to be a notorious agent of Fascist espionage and also connected with the graft of Scorza in Lupa^{cc} (Carlo Scorza, the ^{last} best secretary of the Fascist Party under the Mussolini regime), turned up in Marseilles in 1934.

About 6 ft. tall; dark-chestnut hair; olive complexion; now in his late thirties.

He speaks or spoke Italian with a Tuscan accent.

He passed himself off as an Italian or as a Brazilian, having been born in Brazil of Italian parents.

Jonna, Guglielmo

This individual, from Ancona, Italy, was a former railway employee (station master, probably). As an active member of the Italian communist party since 1924, he gained a good reputation among his comrades, gave proof of a spirit of sacrifice, discharged reasonably responsible duties, and participated in international communist gatherings.

In 1927, he was arrested in Turin, together with other communists.

About a month after his arrest, he reappeared among his comrades, alleging that he had managed to escape. Apparently, during his internment, the police had "broken" him, had arranged his "flight" and had persuaded him to "spy" on his comrades.

Jonna's tale about his flight sounded quite plausible, but he was caught in some contradictions, and accordingly, communists *were* warned against him.

Nothing was heard of him for a while, from about 1928 to 1930, when it was learned — at any rate, to the satisfaction of communists — that he had contributed to the discovery and arrest of the Italian communist, Miss or Mrs. Ravera, in the summer of 1930.

Marassi

This individual, a former Italian communist coming from
and/or active in Milan, was later (about 1930) regarded by com-
munists as an agent ^{or} provocateur.

Overi, Mario

In 1934, anti-Fascists in France were warned by the Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell' Uomo (Italian League of the Rights of Man, commonly referred to as L. I. D. U. or Lidu, an anti-Fascist organization in France) against a certain Mario Overi, who assumed the name Lippi when he entered the (French?) foreign legion. Overi moved about in the vicinity of Marseilles and Nice.

12

Quaglia-Novello

This individual, a former Italian communist active in Pavia and Milan, was later (about 1930) regarded by communists as an agent provocateur. His name, presumably his last name, is given in hyphenated form, as above, and also as Quaglia. This Quaglia must not be confused with the Quaglia discussed in R & A No. 1318, page 20.

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097.3
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Spies, Agents Provocateurs,
Or Questionable Characters
Connected With Italy
Part II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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This report concerns Amerigo
Dumini, one of the murderers
of the Italian Deputy Giacomo
Matteotti

19 July 1944

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This report contains information and raises certain questions concerning Amerigo Dumini, one of the murderers of the Italian Deputy Giacomo Matteotti in June 1924.

It is well to proceed on the assumption that he is still alive and to dismiss, for all practical purposes, the reports, circa 1941-1942, to the effect that he was dead and that the British had proof of his death.

Much of the evidence concerning Dumini is uneven and often conflicting. It is at times intended to deceive. In the present report, an effort has been made to submit information that approximates the truth and that may be helpful in tracing Dumini's present activities and purposes.

This report is divided into four parts: I, Birth and Relatives; II, Chronology of Dumini's Life Since 1919; III, Whom is he Serving?; IV, Partners in Matteotti murder.

I

Birth and Relatives

Amerigo Dumini was born on January 3, 1894, in St. Louis, Missouri.

The fact of his American birth was exploited by Fascists in order to show that he was an American, or an American gangster, who had somehow intruded himself in Italian affairs. Exactly how much

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time he spent in this country is uncertain, but he was, in all probability, no more than a child when he settled in Italy. Hence, except for the accident of his birth here, Dumini is to all intents and purposes an Italian, or, as some would prefer to have it, a product of Fascist Italy.

His father, Adolfo Dumini, was born in Italy. Among other things, he engaged in the "art business" in Florence, and it is perhaps for this reason that he was sometimes called "Professor." Some years ago, he was the owner of or associated with the firm of Dumini and Sons, "Artists", which dealt in oil paintings and the manufacture of Florentine frames and artistic furniture etc. The address of this firm, circa the twenties and early thirties, was Piazza Pitti 16-17-18, Florence, and, circa 1934, it was Borgo Ognissanti 3, Florence. In 1933, he could also be reached at the following address: Galleria Cambi, Borgo Ognissanti 12, Florence.

In the latter part of 1932, he apparently was in this country, presumably on a business trip, and could be reached care of John Spivy, [Spivy-Johnson] Art and Frame Co., 1922 4th Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He was back in Florence in 1933. He apparently joined his son Amerigo in Derna, Lybia, and stayed with him there in April 1940.

Amerigo's mother is Jessie Wilson Dumini. Her maiden name is sometimes spelled Willson. Her name has been cited to lend credence to the claim that Amerigo was an American. She was born in England.

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She could be reached at her husband's address. She could also be reached at the following addresses in and circa 1933: (1) Mrs. Chisleri Amalia or Mrs. Amalia Chisleri, Borgo San Frediano, no. 61, Third Floor, Florence; (2) Mrs. Ridi Serafino or Mrs. Serafino Ridi, Bar La Posta, [commune of] Galluzzo, [province of] Florence; (3) Miss Jessie Wilson, 20 Hudley Road, Harrogate, England.

Amerigo's woman companion and possibly wife, legal or common-law, is apparently named Bianca Faufain (or Fanfain), and was called Bianchina by Amerigo. Her address, circa 1933, was Via Guardavia 26, Florence. She was permitted to stay with him, circa 1929-1931, while he was "confined" on the small island of Tremiti, in the Adriatic. (The word "confined", from the Italian word "confino", denotes a form of banishment, deportation or administrative arrest as distinguished from formal imprisonment resulting from a court sentence. Those who were "confined" in Italy were sometimes permitted to have their families with them).

There is excellent reason for believing that Amerigo's parents and "woman" stuck with him through all or most of his experiences after the Matteotti murder.

The addresses given above may be helpful in tracing Dumini and his relatives. The names, other than their own, may be pseudonyms or they may be names of real persons through whom they received mail.

In 1933, Amerigo gave the following addresses where he could be reached: (1) Serafino Ridi, Bar La Posta, Galluzzo, Florence;

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(2) Via Serragli, no. 6, First Floor [pianterreno], Florence; (3) Via del Prato, no. 2, Second and/or Third Floor, Florence. For further information on his addresses, see section II below on the chronology of Dumini's life.

All the addresses given by Dumini and his relatives may have been used by all of them.

II

Chronology of Dumini's Life Since 1919

This chronology makes no pretense to completeness. Except in a few cases, the dates are approximate. The data for the period circa 1941 ^{are} ~~is~~ confusing. The letter "C." stands for "circa."

C. 1919 -- June 1924

Active in anti-socialist and Fascist movement; conspicuous for leadership of Fascist "punitive squads", violence, and reputation as a killer; dabbled in journalism; a leader of so-called Fascist Cheka; used pseudonym Gino Bianchi; well-acquainted with many Fascist hierarchs, including Giovanni Marinelli and Cesare Rossi (the latter, himself a dangerous man, and in turn a Fascist, an anti-Fascist, a Fascist prisoner, and a Fascist and Nazi agent, is apparently, at the present moment, under arrest in Naples).

June 10, 1924

One of the men who murdered Matteotti.

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C. June 1924 -- May 1926

In custody or imprisoned in connection with Matteotti
murder.

C. September 1926 -- December 1927

Arrested in Sept. 1926 apparently for making insulting
remarks against Mussolini, and kept in custody.

C. April 1928

Arrested and released after a few weeks.

C. July 1928

Went to Africa, presumably to work, settling at Kismayu
in Italian Somaliland.

C. September 1928

Arrested at Kismayu and sent to Italy, where he was soon
ordered "confined".

C. October 1928 -- November 1932

Confined on the island of Tremiti.

C. November 1932 -- July 1933

A free man; apparently spends most of this time in Florence;
in April, 1933 he was arrested and released.

C. July 1933 -- May 16, 1934

Confined again on the island of Tremiti.

C. July and August 1934

Apparently settled at Derna, in Lybia.



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C. August 1936

Apparently still at Derna. His addresses there were:

(1) Via 1 F Ottobre 165; (2) Azienda Pastorale di Bu-

Msafer.

C. April 1940

Apparently he is still at Derna, and his father is with him.

1941

Reports about him are confusing and conflicting, particularly for the months April-June. It is reported that he returned to Italy when the British made their advance into Lybia. He may have been in Italy in April, his Italian address being Corso Regina Elena 30, Florence. By the end of June, he was reported to be a British prisoner in Egypt, having been captured in Derna, and he was reported to be dead.

C. January 1942

Reported that British had proof of his death.

C. August 12, 1943 (after Mussolini's fall)

Arrested in Italy, at Riva del Garda, in the Lake Garda and Trent district, in northeastern Italy. For some days before arrest, had been seen in a high-powered auto. Would have probably escaped, if he had not been denounced by his mistress, the daughter of a peasant of Dro, a commune in the province of Trent. He was disguising his real identity.

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At time of arrest, eight different identity cards from eight different communes were confiscated. All these cards had been falsified. In his valise were found 250 bills of a 1000 lire each, believed to be the fruit of his "enterprises" in Africa, and specifically at Derna.

C. September 1, 1943

Apparently still under arrest. Reported that he had been living, until July 15, 1943, in Florence, in a small luxurious villa in Via Pietro Tacca. At this place, police found a Fiat car, about 40,000 razor blades, 200 bottles of beer, and other articles which he was probably selling at high prices.

Present Whereabouts

They are uncertain. In all probability, he was released, after Italy's unconditional surrender in September 1943 when the Nazis and the Fascists resumed control of central and northern Italy.

III

Whom Is He Serving?

Despite the vicissitudes in Dumini's relations with the Fascists, despite the blackmail that has been involved in these relations, particularly since the Matteotti murder, there is excellent ground for believing that he has been, all along and to this very day, a Fascist agent or a close collaborator of the Fascists.

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At the same time, it would be well to consider the possibility that he has had or has attempted to have contacts with a foreign Power, with a view towards serving, contemporaneously, both Fascist Italy and another Power.

In 1928, while in Africa, he seemed to have met some Britishers and to have had ample opportunity to meet British officials.

The motives behind the varying reports concerning his capture and death are obscure.

Given Dumini's character and past performance, the query is justified as to whether he has been pretending to be a counter-agent for the British while being, at the same time, in the service of the Fascists.

If he should be caught by the Allies, it is not unlikely that he will try to redeem or extricate himself by fabricating a story of how he had really been an anti-Fascist, in sympathy with the Allies etc.

IV

Partners in Matteotti Murder

Four men, besides Amerigo Dumini, participated in the actual murder of Matteotti: Augusto Malacria, Amleto Poveromo, Giuseppe Viola, and Albino Volpi.

A word about Poveromo. In 1928, he was apparently in Holland, his address being General Postoffice, Rotterdam. He had assumed the name Amleto Galanti. He had apparently made trips outside of Europe. It is not impossible that he came to this country.

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